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No. 98.

The Federal Magazine

AND

"THE 'ALL-RED' MAIL."



PUBLISHED BY

THE LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE,

Central Offices, 28, BUCKINGHAM GATE, WESTMINSTER, LONDON.

April, 1915.

Price 3d. net.



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THE FEDERAL MAGAZINE.

AND

"THE 'ALL RED' MAIL."

Monthly Record of The League of the Empire, with which is incorporated
The Overseas League, and of The Imperial Education Trust.

EDITED BY E. M. ORD MARSHALL.

No. 98.

APRIL, 1915.

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THE GREAT WAR.

PART V.

INDIA AND THE WAR.*

By the Right Hon. Sir H. MORTIMER DURAND, G.C.M.G.,
K.C.S.I., &c.

I have been asked to speak to you this evening upon the subject of India and the War. It is a wide subject for a lecture, so I hope you will excuse me if I seem to treat it rather superficially. I hope also that those of you who know India and its history will further excuse me if I assume that there are some here who do not, and speak primarily to them.

You are all aware that the Chiefs and people of India have come forward with enthusiasm to help England in this great conflict, and that Indian troops have been fighting under the British flag against the Germans within a few miles of our shores. It is a striking fact, new to History, and has made a deep impression not only upon us but upon other nations, especially upon our enemies, to whom it came as a painful surprise. What I would ask you to consider to-night is the meaning of this fact—how it has come about, and what is its bearing upon the position of the British Empire among the powers of the world.

At the beginning of the year I went over to France, and saw some of the Indian wounded. I was struck then, as I have often been before, with the great variety of type among our Indian soldiery. Let me give you an instance. On the heights above Boulogne stands the Jesuit College, now turned into a hospital. In front of it, by the way, was a large British Camp, over which rose the well-known Napoleon column erected to the memory of the Grande Armée of 1805, which was to have

invaded England. The Emperor little thought then that a century later an army of Englishmen, and of Indians under the British flag, would be gathered there to help in the defence of French soil. But to return to the Indian wounded. I found among them men of many races—Rajputs, the bluest blood in India, and other Hindus, Jats, Sikhs, Gurkhas, Mahomedans from our own provinces, and from the tribes of the wild borderland, all sorts and conditions of men. Englishmen in general seem to think that the Indian army consists of nothing but Gurkhas and Sikhs. That is very far from the fact. The two races or communities make up hardly a fiftieth part of the Indian population; and, good soldiers as they are, there are others quite as good, notably the Mahomedans, who once won Empire in India by the sword, and held it for hundreds of years. I do not wish to depreciate the Sikhs and Gurkhas—far from it. Thirty years or more ago, after seeing Indian troops fighting in Afghanistan, I returned full of admiration for their martial qualities, and being young, committed myself to verse in their honour. I selected as a typical representative of them an old Sikh who had served with Hodson's Horse in the Mutiny, and afterwards in other wars, and made him tell his story. A few weeks ago I was surprised on opening an English newspaper to come upon my almost forgotten verses, which someone had dug out. As they have some bearing on the present position may I quote the old Sikh's ending? It was this:—

"And if ever the time should come Sahib, as come full well
it may,
When all is not as smooth and fair as all things seem to-day,
When foes are rising round you fast, and friends are few
and cold,
And a yard or two of trusty steel is worth a Prince's gold,
Remember Hodson trusted us, and trust the old blood too,
And as we followed him—to death—our sons will follow
you."

* A lecture given at the League of the Empire Club on March 24.

Well, thank God our friends now are not few and cold, but the promise has been well redeemed. It has been redeemed not only by the Sikhs, but by men of all races. Among the most cheery and keen of the wounded I found a Mahomedan tribesman from the north-west frontier. He belonged to one of the wildest and most troublesome tribes on the whole line—the Mahsud Wazirs; but he had fought for us in the trenches in France, and told me he wanted nothing but to get back to the front. After a little talk, I said “I suppose you know your tribe is ‘out’ again?” His face lighted up and he burst into a merry laugh. “No Sahib,” he said, “are they really? The blackguards.” And then: “Sahib, are they putting up a good fight?” The whole thing seemed to strike him as great fun. That is an example of the variety in the ranks of our Indian soldiers, and I was told at the front that these Mahomedan tribesmen were fighting exceptionally well.

This brings me to the point which is, I think, the first to be considered when we are dealing with the subject before us, namely, What is India and what are the Indians? I daresay some of you will be surprised, but others will bear me out, when I say that there is no such country as India, and no such nation as the Indians, except in the sense that Europe is a country, and the people of Europe are a nation. The tract of territory which we are accustomed to call India contains every variety of geographical features, of climate, and of population. It has mountain ranges with peaks nearly twice the height of the highest Alps. The Himalayan—Him Alay—means the Abode of Snow. India also has burning sandy deserts where rain is almost unknown, and jungles where more rain sometimes falls in a week than in England in a year; and immense fertile plains filled by swarming millions of men, and forests where herds of wild elephants still roam in freedom. As to population, India contains as many people as all Europe excluding Russia, over 300 millions; and there is at least as much difference between a Pathan from the north-west frontier and a Madrassi from the south as there is between a Norwegian and a Portuguese. They stand completely apart, in race and colour and character and religion, and the language of the one is wholly unintelligible to the other. Both are “Indians” to the European, just as the Norwegian and the Portuguese are both “Farangis,” Franks, Europeans, in the eyes of the Indian, but the two terms are equally broad and vague.

It is true that India is cut off from the rest of the world by marked geographical boundaries. An immense chain or mass of mountains something like 2,000 miles long bounds it on the north, the ocean bounds it on the south, and to east and west the mountain mass throws out ranges which reach practically down to the ocean. It is true also that throughout the enclosed tract, as large as Europe excluding Russia, one religion, known to us as Hinduism, has established itself as the prevalent faith—just as Christianity has established itself in Europe. But the mountain mass is not impassable, especially on the western side, and for thousands of years fair-skinned races poured down, wave after wave, from Central Asia into the Indian plains, and dominated, though they could not destroy, the dark aboriginal population whose origin

no one knows. In the same way their religion dominated, without extirpating, the countless faiths of the aboriginal population, until it became a mixture of many different and often conflicting beliefs. It permits the worship of innumerable Gods, and the ordinary Hindu has little knowledge of its inner philosophy. The fair Aryan races, in fact, adopted the Gods of the conquered races in addition to their own, just as the Romans did. It is hardly too much to say that a man could worship any God he pleased as long as he revered the Brahman priesthood and did not kill cows. Moreover Hinduism with all its variations, accounts for only two-thirds of the population. The great Mahomedan religion broke into India hundreds of years ago, and numbers sixty or seventy millions of adherents; while the adherents of other religions in India are nearly as numerous as the entire population of the British Isles. Therefore, though its geographical boundries have given India to outside eyes some measure or appearance of unity, there has been room for the maintenance of many races, and languages, and creeds. Sir John Strachey tells us that “the differences between the countries of Europe are undoubtedly smaller than those between the countries of India,” and that there is no Indian nation.

Nor is this all. Not only is there no Indian nation but there is no nation in India. The various countries in India are not nations, and never have been nations, in the European sense of the word. There have been, and there are, feudal chiefships, and tracts where one language is spoken, but no such country as France or Italy inhabited by a compact organised nation of Frenchmen or Italians, has ever been formed in India.

I am not speaking of the future. India is, in a sense, distinct from the rest of the world, and the British are doing something to unify it, and bring about a semblance of national feeling. A recent Indian writer has said that “it will yet take the Indians a great many years to become a compact and united people, but under the protection of the British Government the soldering has begun.” He may be right. While we are dividing into four nations the forty millions of white christians in the British Isles we may be welding into one nation the three hundred millions of India with all their various creeds and colours. But so far India has never been a nation or a company of nations; and that is the essential fact which underlies the whole subject we are considering.

No one ever understood this better than an Indian Viceroy of thirty years ago, Lord Dufferin—one of the ablest and best men who ever ruled India. In his memoir you will find vivid and picturesque descriptions of the Empire and its various races—speaking more than a hundred languages, and showing to the present day an example of every stage of civilisation through which mankind has passed. Lord Dufferin was an Irishman, or as he put it, a Scotsman “very much improved by having been an Irishman for three hundred years.” He had the Irish quickness of imagination, and the Irish eloquence. He had himself added to the Empire a country as large as France, wholly

different from anything in India—which perhaps made him understand the position with special clearness.

May I give you a few illustrations, drawn from personal experience to show the variety of India?

About five and twenty years ago I was sent to make a treaty with the Chinese after a war with Tibet, which was regarded as under Chinese sovereignty. The Tibetans had been encroaching upon the little protected State of Sikkim, which was inhabited by a small and unwarlike population, unable to defend themselves, and we had been obliged to expel the Tibetans for them. Sikkim lies in the Himalayas contiguous to Nepal, the home of the Gurkhas—but a greater contrast than that between the Gurkhas and Sikkimese can hardly be imagined—the one a gallant fighting race, the other soft and helpless. Sikkim is, however, a beautiful country, its hills and valleys so densely wooded that during the campaign our troops found the greatest difficulty in setting up heliograph stations. Brawling streams poured through it in all directions, and here and there on the points of a spur one would see a little clearing with a Buddhist monastery perched upon it, surrounded by fluttering prayer flags. In the more open ground oranges grew so profusely that they seemed to have no value. One day sitting in my tent I heard a great noise outside, and going to the doorway I found that my escort of Gurkhas and artillerymen had divided into two parties, and collecting great heaps of oranges had entered upon a sham fight. The little juicy thin-skinned oranges were admirable missiles, and there were yells of delight as one would strike and explode on the face or bare chest of a combatant. All around was the beautiful forest, distant mountain peaks showing through great trees festooned with creepers.

That is India—one aspect of India.

When the Chinese envoys arrived on the frontier I went to meet them. The last day of our march we mounted in the early morning and began to climb up a narrow zig-zag road made by our troops through the forest. As we went up and up in rain and mist, the air grew more and more rare, and the cold more and more searching. It was the day before Christmas. When we were at a height of about twelve thousand feet the grey mist all round us turned to a deep indigo blue, and I was wondering what it meant when suddenly we came up through it into a patch of dazzling sunshine. The mist was still flying about us in swirls, so we rode on a hundred yards further till we were clear of it. Then we pulled up near the summit of a little sugar loaf peak and looked about us. I shall never forget that sight. To south and east as far as we could see lay a vast canopy of white cloud. Close under our feet it was stirring as eddies of wind caught it, but in the distance it looked like a solid plain, so solid that we could have ridden over it. Then we turned in our saddles, and out of the white plain there rose into the deep cloudless blue above us the mighty head of Kinchinjunga, sixteen thousand feet of rock and ice and snow towering up above the clouds. To such mountain giants Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn are mere pigmies. The Himalayas contain literally scores of Switzerlands. If

all the Alps were dropped head downwards into the Himalayan valleys not a hundredth part of them would be filled up.

I remained a month or so above the clouds negotiating with the Chinese. The cold was intense. In spite of a large fire of logs in my hut I used to wake in the morning to find the breath frozen on my blankets and my sponge like a lump of coral. For exercise we used to skate on a sheet of ice thick enough to bear an elephant.

That is India too.

Some years before that time I spent a year or two in the Native States of Rajputana—the oldest Chiefships in India. These Chiefships were never conquered by us, but turned to us for help a hundred years ago against the ravages of other Indians—the Maratta freebooters—whose countless swarms had overwhelmed them. We delivered them in their hour of need, and since then their brave and chivalrous clans have been among the most loyal friends of the British Crown. Among their Chiefs are the veteran Maharaja Pertab Singh, the Maharajas of Jodhpore, Bikanir and others. They are now in France, serving personally under the British flag.

Their people are very different from the people of the British provinces. When I first went to Rajputana my Indian servants were miserable. They told me they could not understand a word of the language or get the food they were accustomed to eat, and they begged me to let them go back to Hindustan. They were just as much strangers in Rajputana as the English servants I took to Spain twenty years later were strangers there. Also, accustomed to the peaceful ways of life in British territory, they were mortally afraid of the Rajputs, who were always fighting among themselves, and might be seen even at the plough with their swords in their waistbelts and their round shields on their backs. I can well remember marching one autumn across the western part of Rajputana. All round us was a sandy desert broken here and there by isolated rocky hillocks, or kopjes, as bare of trees as the dome of St. Paul's. Our mounts were camels, which would carry one all day, if necessary, at a smooth shuffling trot of about seven miles an hour. A thorough bred Bikanir riding camel is really a beautiful creature, with head and eyes like a deer, and long slender limbs—as different from the camel of burden as an English Derby winner is from a cart horse. And if he is well trained the trot is so smooth that you can carry a full glass of water in your hand. It was tremendously hot, so hot that at night when the sand wind was still blowing I used to lie in an Ashanti hammock of netted string and get a water carrier to open the nozzle of his water skin and drench me in my night clothes from head to foot, as a preparation for sleep. I do not recommend the practice, but with the thermometer at 110° it was delicious.

That is India too.

Later, I was once in the Mysore forests to the south watching the capture of a herd of wild elephants. When the herd had been trapped and securely tied up, after

several days' work, I went off to shoot a "rogue"—that is, a dangerous elephant who used to kill every man and cart bullock he could see. I may say at once that I failed, but to show you what an Indian forest can be I will tell you what the reason of my failure was. Guided by two or three little jungle men through dense clumps of bamboos, which towered to a great height overhead and shut out the sun, I got quite close not only to the rogue I was looking for, but to two of them. They were fighting, and one could hear their shrill screams and the grinding of their tusks together. Sometimes we must have been within a very few yards of them, for the bamboos were swaying over our heads as they struggled. Yet during the whole afternoon I only once caught a glimpse of them, as they crossed a little open patch, one driving the other and prodding him from behind. It was too far for a killing shot, so I did not fire, and I never saw them again, though we followed them by sound for hours and often thought we were on them. The end of it was that the swift Indian night came down, and there was silence.

The forest hunters with me were little black men, with negroid faces. They could not have been over five feet high, and were as unlike the tall, fair men of Upper India as any human being could be. One of them had picked up a few words of Hindustani. What his natural language was I do not know, or what his religion. Probably if he had any he worshipped some forest demon.

That is India, too.

By the way, what we call Hindustani, the lingua franca of India, the Indians call Urdu, the language of the camp. That in itself is very significant. It has many Upper Indian words in it, but also many Persian words, and is written in the Persian character, from right to left, unlike the languages of Upper India. To the vast majority of Indians it is about as intelligible as French, the lingua franca of Europe, would be to a Devonshire peasant.

More than once it has been my good fortune to enjoy the hospitality of our chairman when he was Governor of Bombay. I slept in a delightful bungalow in his grounds at Malabar Point, where one could sit on the rocks and look out westward over the open sea, with a cool breeze blowing in from it and rustling the branches of the trees overhead. Behind was the city, a busy capital and port, crowded with a population of many types, among them the able and prosperous Parsis, neither Hindus nor Mahomedans, but so-called fire worshippers from Persia, who expose their dead to be devoured by vultures, instead of burning or burying them.

That is India, too.

I could give you many more examples of the infinite variety of India, but perhaps these will suffice to bear out my argument that we should look upon India not as a country and a nation, but rather as a continent with countries and peoples at least different from each other as those of Europe.

(To be continued.)

DIARY OF THE WAR—(Continued).

March 1st	Blockade of Germany by the Allied Fleets.
" 1st	Progress of the Allied Fleets in the Dardanelles.
" 2nd	Russian Victory at Przasnysz, Northern Poland.
" 3rd	Severe fighting north-west of Basra (Persian Gulf), between Indian Troops and Turkish regiments.
" 4th	German U8 sunk off Dover.
" 5th	Zeppelin L8 wrecked with loss of 17 men.
" 6th & onwards.	Increased severity of Bombardment of the Dardanelles.
" 8th	Severe fighting on the front between the Niemen and the Vistula.
" 9th	Three British Steamers torpedoed by submarines off Hastings, Liverpool and Scarborough.
" 10th	German U12 sunk.
" 10th-13th	Allies' Victory at Neuve Chapelle—great German and British losses.
" 12th	Loss of H.M. Auxiliary Cruiser <i>Bayano</i> , sunk by torpedo.
" 14th	Severe German reverse in the Carpathians.
" 18th	Three vessels of the Allied Fleets sunk by mines in the Dardanelles.
"	Occupation of Memel by the Russians.
" 20th	Successful operations by the Union Forces in German S.W. Africa.
" 22nd	Fall of Przemyśl. Russian capture of 126,000 prisoners and 700 big guns.
" 24th	Attack by British airmen on German submarine works at Hoboken.
" 24th-27th	French Advance in Alsace.
" 25th	German U29 sunk with all hands.
"	Dutch Steamer <i>Medea</i> sunk by U28 off Beachy Head.
" 28th	The liner <i>Falaba</i> torpedoed by German submarine off Milford with serious loss of life.
" 31st	Heavy fighting in the Carpathians.

SOME BOOKS ON INDIA.

Chirol, Sir Valentine ...	Indian Unrest. (Macmillan.)
Hunter, Sir William, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.	A brief History of the Indian People. (Longman.)
Lyall, Sir Alfred, K.C.B., C.I.E.	The Rise of the British Dominions in India. (Murray.)
Morison, Sir Theodore, K.C.I.E.	Imperial Rule in India. (Murray.)
Roberts, Earl, V.C., K.G. ...	Forty-one years in India. (Macmillan.)
Trotter, Captain Lionel ...	Life of John Nicholson. (Murray.)
Lives of Akbar, Aurangzib, Clive, Dupleix, Warren, Hastings, Lord Laurence, &c., in the "Rulers of India" (Clarendon Press), and "Men of Action" Series (Macmillan.)	

FIRST AID LECTURES.

In Co-operation with the St. John Ambulance Association.

A course of lectures on First Aid will be given on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. by Dr. Lewis Hawkes, M.D., at the League of the Empire Headquarters, 28, Buckingham Gate, S.W. The course consists of five lectures and will be followed by an examination.

The first lecture will take place on :—

Thursday, April 15th at 2.30 p.m.

Fee for the Course (including examination) 7/6

For members of the League... 5/-

Demonstrations will be given in bandaging, &c.

Application should be made to: The Hon. Secretary, League of the Empire, 28, Buckingham Gate, S.W.

The Federal Magazine

and

"The 'All-Red' Mail"

Junior Members' Section.

Registered for Canadian Magazine Post.]

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EDITORIAL.

The Celebration of Empire Day.

For some time past the Council have had before them the question of the fitting celebration of Empire Day. The usual Parade in Hyde Park, much appreciated in times of peace, was felt unsuitable at this time of tension and anxiety. They therefore suggested a religious ceremony, the special significance of which should be the "honour and remembrance of great men."

The following letter from Sir Frederick Pollock to the Press, gives details of this ceremony in St. Paul's Cathedral, which it is hoped may be repeated in many parts of the Empire:—

LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE.

SIR,—Perhaps it may help others in their arrangements for the keeping of Empire Day this year if I mention what will be done by the League of the Empire in London. For many years we have, with the co-operation of other associations, held a large parade in Hyde Park.

Whilst the Empire is united in a great world-war by land and sea a display of this kind would be unsuitable. We therefore approached the authorities of St. Paul's Cathedral, who have agreed to hold an Empire Day service, the special significance of the celebration being "Honour and remembrance of great men." The London County Council have very kindly granted the League the use of their school organisation, on the condition that all help rendered by the teachers is entirely voluntary. As Empire Day, the 24th of May, falls at Whitsuntide, this year's celebration has been postponed until the 12th June, the London County Council having their celebration on the 11th.

As regards the service, bands will be used for the processions from the different parts of London, and wreathed banners may be carried, showing the names of any men which each brigade or corps wishes to honour. Our League would specially remember the name of Lord Roberts, who always attended these parades and took the salute. We should gladly welcome the co-operation of any authorities or organisations in this matter.—Yours, &c.,

FREDERICK POLLOCK,
President, League of the Empire.

March 24.

The League's Work for the War.

The War work of the League continues actively as ever, and the pressure on the office staff is still great, though owing to the kindness of many voluntary helpers, it has of late been considerably lessened. Working parties in different districts of England have been sending the League shirts, socks and other articles of clothing for which there

is but greater demand as the months pass by. From the Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire (U.S.A.) have come further consignments of gifts, which have been distributed with great care to centres in France, camps and hospitals, and to individual soldiers at the Front, as well as to many English institutions. In connection with these generous gifts the Council of the League remember with gratitude Mrs. George Quirk, the Corresponding Secretary of the Order, through whose excellent organization contributions from British Women throughout the United States have been gathered together and packed for shipment to England. Many British subjects in the States, not knowing the number and regiment of relations at the Front, have sent parcels of comforts to the care of the League. With the assistance of the Record Officers at the different Depots and of Messrs. Cox, the League, we are glad to say, have been enabled to dispatch these parcels to their proper destinations.

Annual Meeting of the Imperial Union of Teachers.

The next Annual Meeting of the Imperial Union of Teachers will take place at the Caxton Hall, on July 17th. The Council of the League of the Empire felt that, although the numbers attending the Conference might be affected by the great struggle in which the Empire is involved, for this very reason it was the more desirable that counsel should be taken together by those who are working throughout the Empire for the education of the rising generation. It is proposed that the principal matter for consideration shall be "the influence of Education on National Character with special reference to the great international and imperial events of the present time." The final arrangements and the programme for the Imperial Education Conference in Toronto in 1916, prepared by the Hon. the Minister of Education for Ontario, will also be presented to the meeting.

Delegates to the Conference.

The following educational Associations have already appointed delegates to attend the Conference: The College of Preceptors; the Federal Council of Secondary Schools Associations; the Head Masters' Association; the Association of Head Mistresses; the National Union of Teachers; the Association of Secondary Teachers of Ireland; the Welsh County Schools Association; the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions; the National Association of Head Teachers; the Association of Assistant Masters in Secondary Schools; the Association of Assistant Mistresses in Secondary Schools; the Classical Association; the Geographical Association. Other Associations have laid the matter before their executive Councils, and next month a further list of those taking part in the Conference will be published.

Applications for tickets, which admit to both afternoon conferences and evening reception, should be made to the Hon. Secretary, League of the Empire, 28, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.

The Study of Imperial History.

The work of organising the Scheme for the Study of Imperial History grows apace, and we hope in due course to print a list of Schools and Colleges in all parts of the Empire co-operating with the League in this important new Branch of its activities. The Council record with pleasure that Sir Harry Reichel, LL.D., Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales has joined the History Committee, and thereby strengthened interest in the historical work of the League in the Principality. In Ontario Principal Hutton has agreed to be responsible for the two parts of the Canadian Syllabus, which will appear in the October and November issues of THE FEDERAL MAGAZINE. This is being taken in hand at once as the University of Toronto breaks up earlier than usual owing to the fact that three-fourths of the students are members of the Officers' Training Corps, and are going into camp at Niagara.

The following letter has been addressed by the History Section of the League to the Universities of the United Kingdom in regard to the granting of increased facilities for the study of Imperial History:—

25th February, 1915.

SIRS,

A somewhat far-reaching movement has arisen for the more systematic study of the history of the British Empire, and it has seemed well to the History Committee of this League to authorize a scheme by which classes and circles, formed in all parts of the country, may follow a regular course of voluntary study and receive certificates in recognition of work accomplished.

At a meeting, representative of lecturers in history and of teachers, secondary and elementary, held at the Headquarters of the League, Sir Frederick Pollock presiding, a hearty desire was expressed to co-operate in the scheme. The difficulty of giving the pupils any assistance in school hours, lay, all the speakers affirmed, in the fact "that the imperial aspects of English History" did not come within the range of the entrance examinations of the Universities and Colleges, or of local examinations.

The subjoined Resolution was unanimously passed by members of the business meeting appointed to deal with the subject, and is endorsed by us the undersigned, who herewith beg leave to present it to the Matriculation Board of the University of———, asking the honour of their favourable consideration of the request therein contained.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

(Signed) F. POLLOCK.
 " J. B. BURY.
 " H. E. EGERTON.
 " A. F. POLLARD.
 " R. LODGE.
 " E. A. GARDNER.
 " WM. F. PETRIE.
 " R. D. BELOE.
 " C. H. K. MARTEN.

COPY OF RESOLUTION passed unanimously at a Conference attended by representatives from University Colleges, Training Colleges, Secondary and Elementary Schools.

"That it is desirable to influence all Universities to recognise imperial history as an alternative subject in their entrance examinations, in College examinations, &c."

Proposed by Miss BOYCE, Headmistress, Allenswood, Wimbledon.
 Seconded by Mr. F. KETTLE, Headmaster, Clapham School.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES.

Brighton.

A large meeting took place on Wednesday, March 17, at 3, Third-avenue, Hove, kindly lent for the occasion by Mrs. Otter, in order to form a Branch of the League for Brighton and Hove.

After tea, the Mayor (Alderman J. L. Otter, J.P.) who presided, expressed his pleasure in taking the chair for so valuable a Society as the League of the Empire. He said his sympathies were entirely with the Imperial object it had at heart, namely to help people to think more worthily of the great heritage of Empire, which was their birthright. Sir Philip Hutchins described the work of the League more in detail, and Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.A., of Toronto, spoke specially of the League's Imperial History Scheme. Resolutions were unanimously passed establishing a Branch of the League at Brighton and Hove, and pledging the audience to further the study of Imperial History in the district by the formation of circles and by other suitable methods. Following this meeting a lecture on New Zealand (with slides) was delivered by Mr. Raymond at the Technical Institute, Brighton, which was greatly appreciated by an audience consisting of the members and friends of the Old Girls' Association of the Brighton Municipal Secondary School.

Enfield.

At Enfield a meeting was convened at the County School (by kind permission of the Governors) on March 25, with the object of forming a local Branch of the League. The Rev. R. Howell Brown, Chairman of the Governors, presided, and Professor Ernest Gardner gave a short address on the Imperial History Scheme of the League. Miss Evelyn Hunt read a Paper by Mrs. Alfred Watt, who was unavoidably absent through illness. The meeting was an enthusiastic one, and many of those present joined the League. It was resolved to establish a Branch at Enfield, a secretary was appointed, and, by courtesy of the Headmistress, Miss Broome, a second meeting was arranged for an early date. The audience included representatives of both secondary and elementary education.

Transvaal.

"Some short time before the war, I was present at the opening of a fine set of new school buildings at Randfontein in the Transvaal. A pleasing part of the ceremony was the dedication and hoisting of a Union Jack presented by the Earl of Meath. As soon as the flag was unfurled the children and adults lustily sang 'God Save the King.' Since the war broke out, each morning the flag is hoisted at school assembly and remains flying till the school closes for the day.

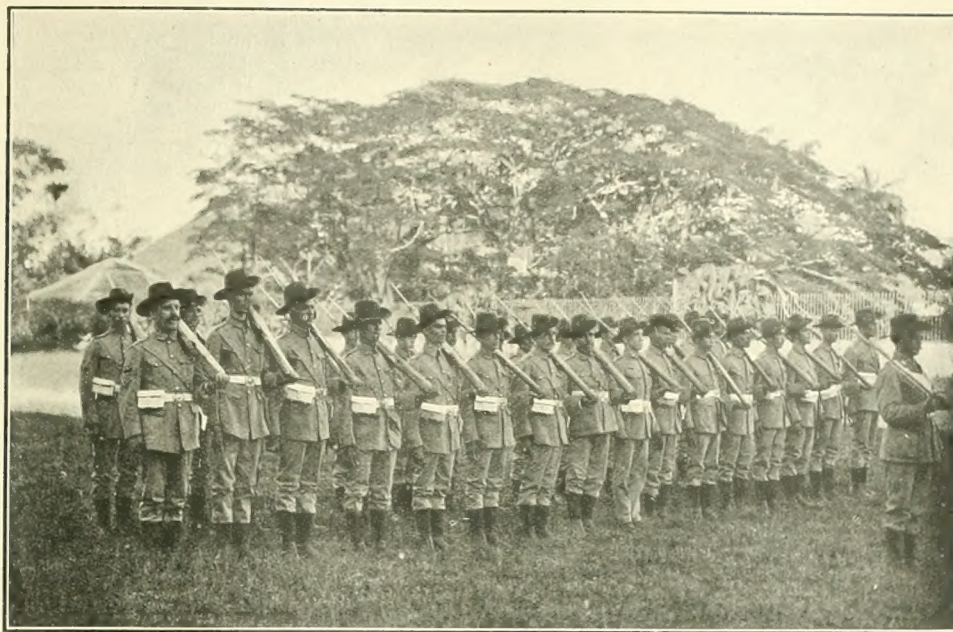
"Yesterday I came across an old Boer farmer selling his produce, whose lament was that the Government would not take him as well as his two sons to fight, and that he had not two more sons to send to fight in German S.W. Africa for the King.

"In the Boer War, he said, his houses and cattle were commandeered without any pay, but the British Government after the Boer War had given him £300 as compensation, and when the Rebellion broke out lately, the Government commandeered his horses, but have given him a good price for them. He would always be loyal to the King, because he got fair play under his rule, and the King had allowed the people in South Africa to rule themselves."

The letter concludes with a reference to the work of the League: "Much has been done by the League of the Empire. Much remains to be done. May the League prosper and be powerful."—(From a Member, Transvaal Branch of the League of the Empire.)

Vancouver.

A patriotic entertainment was recently given by this Branch, part of the proceeds of which have been generously forwarded to the War Fund at Headquarters. The Council of the League acknowledge with thanks this welcome donation, and also the help which has been rendered by the Vancouver Branch in paying the incorporation fee of £3 due on five shares held by the League in the Women's Club House of Vancouver. The Hon. Secretary of this Branch writes: "It would do the hearts of those working at home good to see how their Society was working for men at the Front, as well as for the 'Home Guard,' which has been established here in case of raids by land or sea."



THE TRINIDAD ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.

The Trinidad Artillery Volunteers.

The smaller Colonies of the Empire have one and all shown eager desire to help the Motherland in this time of stress. One and all they have contributed generously to the various relief funds, the women also sending garments and comforts, whilst the men have been drilling and getting ready for war lest their services should be required on the field of battle. The accompanying picture shows the Trinidad Volunteers with the Hon. Secretary of the Trinidad Branch of the League (Captain Randolph Rust) in command. "Everyone here is doing something," writes Mr. Rust, "for our King, our Flag, our Empire. . . . We are passionately loyal here . . . scores of young men are anxious to proceed to England to enlist." Since Mr. Rust wrote these words quite a number of young Trinidadians have sailed for Europe at their own expense to enlist in Kitchener's Army. It is real patriotism when men, thousands of miles away, and apparently so little connected with the issues of the war, are willing to spend their money and their lives in defending the Mother Country whom but few have ever seen.

Canada and Lord Roberts' Message to the Children of the Empire.

To our Canadian cousins the name of Lord Roberts is, as here, a name most deeply honoured, and his loss was felt on the distant prairies as in the metropolis of the Empire where he was a familiar figure to so many of his countrymen. "His Message to the Children of the Empire" has been greatly appreciated by the Schools and Scholars of Canada, over 7,000 of the larger card containing his stirring words having already been sold. It is a message that will inspire generations to come, and will help to continue Lord Roberts' great work of consolidating the Empire.

WAR NOTES FROM OVERSEAS.

Bermuda.

The "Royal Gazette," of Hamilton, Bermuda, publishes a list of some hundred young men, the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps, who have been accepted for service at the front. "It is pleasant to record that so many of the most promising manhood of this little colony have answered the appeal so readily, and are working with such energy to render themselves efficient in every respect. Bermuda has reason to be proud of her young volunteers for the front." Before leaving for active service abroad the men attended a service in the Cathedral where the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland preached an eloquent sermon. "You who are privileged to go forth under the flag of our King and the Empire, side by side with men from all the British Colonies, are the representatives of a great people. . . . Your honour will be our honour, your welfare cause for our ceaseless solicitation at the eternal throne, and your blood, if God calls upon you to shed it, will be our glory from generation to generation."

Queensland.

"We over here have been knitting cholera belts, mittens, &c., much as you have been doing at the League rooms, first for our own men and then to send abroad. Every town or even little village of a couple of hundred inhabitants has its Red Cross Society Even old-age pensioners in some cases have agreed to give something weekly while the war lasts. . . . I thought that in the hurry to get recruits and men to the front the children might in some measure be overlooked so I wrote a letter to one of our daily papers to start a fund for Condensed Milk. . . . The children of the day schools and Sunday schools have kept on sending in subscriptions. . . . Many children emptied their own money boxes for the "Milk for the Babies of Britain Fund." . . . Nearly all the schools in Queensland agreed by vote of the scholars to give the money which is usually spent in prizes to the Belgians. . . . We have no misgivings as to the right of Britain's intervention, and believe the Allies will triumph. People in the old land do not realise how strong the patriotism here is. The children in our schools are taught to reverence their 'Mother.' Every Sunday in most churches 'God Save the King' is sung at the close of the services."—(Letter from a Member of the League, Manly, Queensland).

Reviews.

Songs of Sea Labour (Chanties). By F. T. Bullen and W. F. Arnold. (Orpheus Music Publishing Co.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

Mr. Bullen, whose recent death we all deplore, has done many good things in his time, and though we would not have said that this was his best, we will at any rate put it amongst all of his that is worthy. It is a collection of chanties which he had himself learned and sung in the course of a long life at sea before the mast. The simple accompaniments are by Mr. Arnold. There are introductory sections dealing with the music of the chanties, methods of singing them and giving some very interesting information as to the way in which they first came to Mr. Bullen's notice. To preserve these good old tunes is a national work, and Mr. Bullen has rendered his country a signal service in preserving them. They are vigorous, tuneful and suggestive of the toil, the charm and the fascination of the sea.

Home Entertainments. By A. Williams and F. M. Williams. (Cassell) Price 1s. net.

What shall I do with my guests? That depends on their age and their temperaments, but the answer to the question, except in the case of the hopelessly dull and stupid, is to be found in the latest of the Hobby Books. This handy little volume contains enough tricks, games, puzzles and competitions to last most hostesses for many parties. The directions are simple and clear and, what is more, they all "work." We have tried some of the less familiar ones, and have found them highly successful. In fact one guest said to the writer: "How well you do entertain!" And the secret cost him a shilling.

Arcadian Adventures with the Idle Rich. By Leacock. (Lane). Price 3s. 6d.

We have not been so delightfully amused for years as by this witty selection of stories. It is the most perfectly charming satire, the most winning human humour that we have known in our time. You will buy the book if you have any faith in a reviewer, but you will not lend it, for if you do, you will never see it again. It is an ingenious and irresistible plan for making you see the funny side of things, and for making them funnier than you ever expected they could be. And, with it all, there is no spite, no malice, no coarseness, but the gentlest, merriest, and most entertaining feast of fun, a mixture of sunshines—ironical, sentimental and humorous.

The New Parent's Assistant. By Stephen Paget. (Smith Elder). Price 3s. 6d. net.

Whenever Mr. Paget writes, he writes wisely and with grace. This book does nothing to undermine his reputation for sound sense and graceful expression. Parents will find it useful in suggesting to them points in the treatment of their children with regard to such subjects as sex, faith and other difficult problems. He says that on account of the war "Not many people will read it." We would like to think that he will be agreeably disappointed, and that parents, faced now, more than ever, with the difficulties that come with the possession of children, will seek his aid and take his advice.

Boy Life and Boy Labour.—By Arnold Freeman. (King and Son). Price 3s. 6d. net.

A careful examination of some of the problems facing those who would solve the problem of the future of the boy. It is good to hear the author make a well reasoned defence of the work that is being done by the elementary school. He says: "It seems to be a commonly accepted view that the responsibility for the manufacture of inefficiency lies to a large extent with the elementary school." But after a careful examination of the matter he comes to the conclusion that if we were to take away the elementary school "we should take away the greatest influence in the lives of the children of this country, and we should be manufacturing a race of hooligans who would make our existing civilisation an impossibility," and further, "the manufacture of inefficiency is due, it would seem, not to the errors of schooling, but to the abrupt termination of the education at the age of 14."

The author has many wise things to say as to the effect of the workshop and the street on the adolescent boy, and he suggests certain remedies that we have not space to detail, but which we heartily commend to the consideration of all those who have any interest in this question.

A Pageant of English Literature. By Edward Parrott. (Cassell.) Price 6s. net.

We are not quite sure how to classify this book. It is an accurate and well written account of the development of literature, and of our own in particular. It is beautifully printed and illustrated, and it contains just that amount of information which would enable the ordinary man or child to pass muster in any society where the talk turns on literature, but is not of too deep a character. The style of the book in many ways suggests that it is written for young children, yet, on the other hand, much of the language is far beyond the comprehension of the young. And not only is there language unsuitable for small children, but there are ideas quite beyond their comprehension. For instance, the first to hand, Milton's "stage was to be the vastest that the highest human imagination could conceive—not merely the physical world with the ten concentric spheres revolving about it, but the vast empyrean beyond."

As a book for the young it is a curious mixture of good and less good. We think teachers should get it and put it in the library. It would even make a suitable prize for the advanced young pupil. The work of selection has been well done, and in that respect, it may be of service to teachers.

List of Publications bearing on the War. By G. W. Prothero. (The Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations.) Price 2d.

This excellent bibliography, although the compiler modestly disclaims any pretension to have produced an exhaustive list, is as complete as the most exacting student can demand. Part I. includes works likely to be useful to those who not only desire to understand the immediate causes of the War, but also its more remote origins; Part II. contains books dealing with the war itself, and with naval and military matters generally, and Part III. comprises pamphlets. All the publications have been carefully classified, so that the seeker after any particular book, known or unknown, can quickly find what he wants. Altogether a quite indispensable reference book for lecturer, writer and student.

THE OXFORD PAMPHLETS (Continued).

The War through Canadian Eyes. By W. Peterson, Principal of McGill University. (Price 2d. net.)

This pamphlet, which originally appeared as an article in the Canadian "University Magazine," gives an admirably clear account of the causes that led to the war, the attitude of Germany and the spirit with which England and the Empire entered into the great conflict. The writer has come into personal relations with many distinguished German professors, and appreciates the good qualities of the enemy; at the same time his knowledge of the facts obliges him to state without reserve that Germany forced us into this war. "Britain," says Principal Peterson, "had a clear duty to perform, in the interest of international faith and the right of a weaker nation to maintain its independence." It is good to see that writers all over the Empire are in line as regards the necessity of the step taken by Great Britain, and also write without bias or malice on a subject where personal feeling must necessarily play a large part. This little pamphlet may well have helped to inspire in the young men of Canada a determination to uphold the honour of the Empire which involves the honour of each of her sons.

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SUMMARY OF THE WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE.

The League of the Empire has now completed fourteen years of somewhat strenuous labour in the interests of Imperial Education. It is difficult in a few words to summarise the many different lines of activity which this work has taken, but the following short record will, it is thought, sufficiently justify the Council in putting forward a claim to larger recognition, and also to the special favour of those most able to assist in the financial support of a movement which has played no small part in spreading that wider patriotism on which the unity of the Empire must ultimately depend.

1901. The League of the Empire was founded in this year. The first work of importance undertaken was to establish correspondence between children throughout the Empire. There are now over 31,000 members of the Correspondence Branch of the League.

1903. Affiliation of Schools throughout the Empire was next accomplished, thereby bringing hundreds of thousands of children in every part of the British Dominions into closer relation with each other in an infinite variety of congenial interests.

1907. The first Imperial Education Conference between the Education Departments in the Empire was arranged and convened by the League. A resolution was passed in favour of a quadrennial Conference, and it was announced that the next Official Conference on Education would be called by the Imperial Government in 1911.

1907. A Lace and Needlework Industry was founded by the League in St. Helena in this, a year of acute need in that Island. The Colonial Office made the Island a grant, and the Government of St. Helena shortly afterwards took over the Industry. By request of the Colonial Office the League acts as Agent in England for the School.

1907. A Scheme was initiated providing for the Migration of Teachers for purposes of study, and numbers of Teachers in different parts of the Empire have availed themselves of the League's arrangements.

1909-1911. A History of the British Empire and two Imperial Text Books were prepared and published by the League through the generosity of the late Mr. Louis Spitzel. Edited by Professor A. F. Pollard, these books are largely used in Schools, and a portion of the History was prescribed for the Oxford Local Examination in 1912.

1900. The first Empire Day Parade in Hyde Park was organised by the League in this year. The Parade is now an annual event, and about 10,000 members of different organisations generally take part.

1910. In this year most of the Teachers' Associations of the Empire affiliated themselves to the League.

1911. A short Education Conference was held to review and record the work of the League continued since 1907, by desire of representatives of Overseas Governments.

1912. The First Imperial Conference of Teachers' Associations was held by the League and attended by over 600 Delegates and Representatives from all countries in the British Empire.

1913. The League of the Empire non-residential Club was established, with the help of Sir Robert Lucas Tooth, at 28, Buckingham Gate, Westminster, for the use of members of the League, Associated Teachers, Overseas visitors and all interested in various kinds of imperial work. The League has also organised each year for Overseas Teachers and friends visits to historical places and interesting houses, &c., in the Home Country, and furnished introductions to those visiting different parts of the Empire or emigrating.

1913. The first Annual Meeting of Teachers' Associations throughout the Empire was convened by the League in July, 1913, when arrangements were considered for the next Imperial Conference of Teachers' Associations to be held in due course in Toronto, by invitation of the Government of Ontario, who have made a yearly grant of £50 towards the Educational work of the League.

1913. The Imperial Union of Teachers was formally inaugurated.

In addition to these special undertakings which stand out somewhat as landmarks in the progress of the League, attention may be drawn to other useful indications of activity. The Intelligence Department of the League received commendation in 1907 from the Imperial Education Conference, which placed on record "its high appreciation of the work done by the League of the Empire in stimulating educational activity and in collecting and circulating information on educational subjects." Further evidence of the value of the work done by the League is found in the fact that many of the Overseas Education Departments have appointed the League as their Agent in England. Lectures both public and private have been arranged by the League, Exhibitions organised, Empire Day Essay Competitions throughout the Empire conducted, and means for the interchange of literature, newspapers, photographs, specimens, &c., &c., provided.

The foregoing summary of work accomplished encourages the Council to claim for the League a large measure of success in bringing more closely together British peoples Overseas, and securing effective co-operation between them and those in the Home Country. The Council therefore appeal with confidence for substantial financial help in continuing their important work and in carrying to a successful issue schemes which have proved themselves useful and acceptable in all parts of the Empire.

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